

7. Environmental Action Plans for reducing pollution in Delhi and Mumbai have been prepared by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests.
8. Unleaded petrol is being supplied in Delhi. Sulphur is being progressively reduced in diesel. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel have been notified. Benzene content in petrol has been reduced from 3% to 1% or less.
9. Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules* 1989.
10. The Government is promoting the use of CNG as an alternative fuel.
11. Industries advised to adopt waste minimisation techniques and cleaner production processes.
12. Water Cess levied on use of water to discourage indiscriminate use of water resources.
13. Industry specific effluent standards notified under the Environment (Protection) Act.
14. Grossly polluting industries discharging their effluents into the water bodies directed to provide/upgrade effluent treatment plants.

Starvation of Zoo animals

3626. SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned, "Workers starve animals to stir up Zoo authorities", which appeared in Indian Express, dated 7th November, 2000; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent starvation of animals in the zoos of the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Sanjay Gandhi Zoological Park, Patna, only daily wage labourers were on strike from 18-10-2000 to 13-11-2000. During the strike period, alternative arrangements for feeding of the animals and other essential services were made by the Zoo authorities. There has been no starvation of animals in the Zoos of the country.

Setting up of Environment Tribunal

3627. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: PROF.
(SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had decided to set up Environment Tribunal for expeditious disposal of cases, long back;
- (b) whether it is a fact that provisions were made every year since 1996, for setting up of the Tribunal but it has not been operational though environment cases are on the increase;
- (c) if so, what are the reasons for not utilising the grant; and
- (d) by when it would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Government is in the process of setting up the National Environment Tribunal under the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995. The Act provides for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident occurring while handling any hazardous substance and for effective and expeditious disposal of cases arising from such accident, with a view to giving relief and compensation for damages to persons, property and the environment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The main difficulty in the setting up of the Tribunal has been the availability of suitable incumbent to head the Tribunal. The exercise for the appointment of the Chairperson has been in process since the enactment of the National Environment Tribunal Act. The Chairperson of the Tribunal is yet to be appointed. The Ministry made budgetary allocation every year since 1996. Since the Tribunal has not been set up, therefore the budgetary provisions made, could not be utilized.